bour courts for the last 12 years and due to which the families of the affected persons have become victims of starvation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the efforts being made by Government to provide relief to the concerned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Infrastructural support to rural labour to eradicate exploitation and indebtedness

2380. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Rural Labour has confessed that neither the evploitative money lending system nor the perpetual indebtendness among rural labour can be eradicated by Government's present credit policy; and

(b) if so, what are the measures planned by Government for creating infrastructural support for the rural labour?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The National Commission on Rural Labour have observed that neither the traditional money-lending system nor the incidence of indebtedness among rural labour families can be made to disappear through credit policy working in isolation.

(b) The Planning Commission is already laying emphasis in the Eighth Plan on employment growth and better earnings in rural non-farm sector through promotion of industry in rural areas. Provision of training/skills, technology, marketing assistance and credit to rural non-agricultural activity has been considered essential.

Consumption credit of Rs. 1000/- is being made available to weaker sections-small farmers, rural artisans etc. in the case of IRDP beneficiaries, this credit is given in the nature of working capital.

In order to make institutional credit more accessible to rural households, a multi-agency system comprising of Co-operative Baks, commercial Banks and regional rural banks has been adopted to disburse such credit. Refinancing facilities are extended by NABARD for the promotion of small scale, cottage and village industry, handicrafts and allied economic activities. Subsidies are extended to tribal fish farmers through agencies like Fish Farmers' Development Agency. RBI have issued directions that collateral securities by way of mortgage of land etc. or third party guarantee may not to be insisted upon for term loans upto Rs. 10,000/-

VIII National Safety in Mines Conference

2381. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment have received requests from different quarters to hold the VIII National Safety in Mines Conference

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Requests have been received for holding the Conference on Safety in Mines. At present, for reasons of economy there is a ban on holding of conferences. In the circumstances, the proposal to hold the above Conference is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Conversion of provident fund into pension Scheme

2382. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far taken any final decision to convert the Employees Provident Fund into a Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government's/PSUs have been consulted in this regard including the Labour Unions;

(d) if so, the reaction of State Governments/PSUs, etc. thereto; and

(e) the stage at which the proposal stands as a result of discussion and when it is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Central Board of Trustees, EPF is a tripartite body consisting of representative of employees, employers, and Central/State Governments. The Board has unanimously recommended for introduction of a suitable pension scheme at an advanced stage of consideration. As implementation of Board's recommendations involves amendment of the EPF & MP Act, it is difficult to indicate the time limit with which the proposals woud be implemented.

Verifications of membership of port and dock Trade Unions

2383. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the last verification of membership of various registered trade unions of port and dock workers in major ports was carried out;

(b) what is the name and membership figure of each of them portwise and also the name of the federation to which they are affiliated; and

(c) when the next verification will be carried out?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) The last verification of membership of various registered trade unions of ports and dock workers was carried out in 1989-90 with 31.12.1988 as the date of reckoning. The details regarding names and membership figure of each trade union portwise and the names of federation to which they are affiliated is enclosed, as annexure. (*See* Appendix CLXIV, Annexure No. 38) Verification in ports and dock labour boards is carried out bi-annually. The verification with 31-12-1990 as the date of reckoning is in progress.

Exploitation of employees of Hindustan Lever Ltd.

2384. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases have been filed in the labour courts of the country against M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited and its various subsidiaries by their employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are a number of complaints against the management of the various units of M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited regarding harassment/exploitation of its employees in violation of various laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action Government propose to take against M/s Hindustan Lever Limited to protect the rights of employees working there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House at the earliest.

Exploitation of child labour in carpet Industry

2385. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that carpet manufacturers in varanasi and Mirzapur etc. continue to exploit the child-labour making them work for extra hours on much less wages than the adults and